

REMARKS

I. Disposition of Claims

Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 7 has been canceled. In addition, Claims 8-11 have been amended so that they depend from claims directed to the elected species. As a result of the present amendments, Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are pending. Claims 4-6 and 8-11 are currently withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected species. However, upon allowance of Claim 1, from which all of these claims now ultimately depend, consideration of these claims would be proper and is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification. For example, support for the amendments made to Claim 1 can be found in original Claim 7, and in paragraph [0172] of the published application. New Claim 12 is submitted. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification, for example in paragraph [0173] of the publication of the present application. No new matter has been added.

II. Novelty over Reilly 5,383,858

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, and 7 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Reilly et al. (US 5,383,858). In order to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of that claim. Reilly does not teach a reinforcing rib in which “radial reinforcements are positioned around the concentric reinforcement”. As seen in Figure 6 of Reilly, the structure of the flanges of the syringe disclosed in that reference does not permit the reinforcing ribs of Reilly to surround the circumference.

In contrast to Reilly, the structure of the flange of the claimed invention allows for a reinforcing rib with radial reinforcing parts that surround the entire circumference of the syringe barrel. Therefore, Reilly does not teach all of the claimed elements and the rejection over Reilly should be withdrawn.

III. Novelty over Dragan 5,306,147

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, and 7 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dragan et al. (US 5,306,147). As stated above, in order to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of that claim. Dragan does not teach a “reinforcing rib comprising a concentric reinforcement and a plurality of radial reinforcements” provided on a rear surface of the flange. Instead, Dragan shows a “laterally extending flange or collar 13”. This structure is not the same as the claimed structure. As shown in Fig. 30 of the present application, the radial

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reinforcements (212) and the concentric reinforcement (211) are distinct features which are not shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Dragan, nor described in the specification of Dragan. Therefore, Dragan does not teach all of the claimed elements and the rejection thereover should be withdrawn.

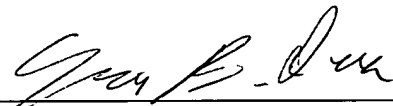
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: 
Eric B. Ives
Registration No. 50,928
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(805) 547-5580

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